

Brehm himself, is an Egyptian specimen, and distinctively of the western type. Consequently Brehm's name merges as a synonym. Middendorff notes his species in Siberia under these two names. I cannot apply Pallas's name, which has the priority, to the eastern form, as he distinctly states, "Gula late, collum, jugulumque colore exolete ferrugineo, versus pectus sensim dilutius. Juguli latera punctis acutis nigris. Pectus pallidum, latera lineolis nigris longitudinalibus. Venter et crissum alba,"—all of which apply to the western, not the eastern form. I think, therefore, that henceforth *A. japonicus*, Temm. & Schl., must be the accepted name for the eastern, as *A. cervinus* for the western form, Temminck's type having clearly the rufous throat and abdomen. *Anthus rosaceus*, Hodgs., is clearly distinct, being very common in North India at all seasons, and having always sulphur-coloured axillaries, which are never found in the chesnut-breasted bird. These Indian species have been worked out with extreme care by my friend Mr. W. E. Brooks, C.E., who has recently discovered *Anthus spinoletta* in great numbers in the North-west Provinces in winter.

XIX.—*Supplementary Notes to 'The Birds of India.'* By
T. C. JERDON, Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals,
Madras.

THE following notes contain additional information on the habits and geographical distribution of many of the birds of India, gleaned by the author in his travels in the north-west of India, Assam, and other parts, since the publication of his book, notices of additional species observed by himself or other ornithologists, and observations on various critical remarks that have been made by commentators on 'The Birds of India.'

As it is intended in a future edition of 'The Birds of India' to include the birds of Assam, the Khasia Hills, Cachar, Tipperah, &c., as far as Chittagong, a few notices will be found in these notes of certain species found in those localities, but not included in 'The Birds of India.'

I. VULTUR MONACHUS.

I found this fine Vulture by no means rare throughout the

greater part of the North-west Provinces, becoming more common in the country north-west of Delhi in the cold weather. It breeds, occasionally at all events, on trees in the outer ranges of the Himalayas. One killed near Sirsa was 44 inches long; extent of wings 9 feet 2 inches; wing 32 inches. The cere and naked parts of the face ashy-bluish or pale mauve, the legs fleshy-white.

3. GYPS FULVUS.

Mr. Hume* considers that he has two species of *Gyps* neither of which is true *G. fulvus*. The Himalayan bird he calls *G. himalayensis*; but though he describes it, he does not particularize the points in which it differs from *G. fulvus*.

The other species, which is as large, occurs in the plains of the extreme North-west Provinces and Punjab, and is essentially a Vulture of the desert. It breeds in trees, laying, as usual, one white egg. This he calls *G. fulvescens*, and describes both with full measurements, *l. c.*

I saw Mr. Hume's specimens, but I can add nothing to his observations, except that the Vulture which I gave as *V. indicus* in my original "Catalogue of Birds of the Peninsula of India"† is probably the same as his *G. fulvescens*, and not *G. indicus*, and that it is also the *V. indicus* of Adams.

Mr. Gurney says that he considers *G. himalayensis* may be new, but that *G. fulvescens* is apparently young *G. fulvus*. The former species differs from *G. fulvus* by having the fourth primary the longest.

4. GYPS INDICUS.

I have probably overstated the extreme measurements of this Vulture, as suggested by Mr. Hume, who gives 40 inches as the greatest length of any examined by him, with an expanse of 92 and wing 23½.

5. GYPS BENGALENSIS.

I found this Vulture pairing in December in the Bijnoor district. A pair had their nest in a large tree under which my

* My Scrap-book, or Rough Notes on Indian Ornithology, i. p. 12.

† Madras Journal, 1839, *et seq.*

tent was pitched, and gave utterance to an unearthly hoarse cry *in copulâ*, as well during the night as in the day.

Mr. Hume cannot help thinking that in describing the young of this bird I must have had in view a young *G. indicus*; but he may rest assured that I could not have mistaken the birds for a moment; and my description of the conspicuous pale centring of the feathers of the lower parts of this bird might have shown him the improbability of such an error, without referring to the structural differences of the two.

Count Salvadori showed me, in the museum of Turin, specimens of what has been considered the same species from Africa, but which he has justly, I think, separated as *G. africanus*.

6. NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS.

Our Indian bird is considered by Mr. Blyth to be distinct from the African species, and in that case will stand as *N. ginginianus*, Daudin. The African bird has the corneous portion of the bill black, and the claws black, whilst ours has the bill yellow and the claws fleshy-white. The African bird, moreover, is larger, and with comparatively stronger tarsi and claws.

Our Indian bird occurs in the north-west Himalayas, and is common in the large stations, up to at least 9000 feet elevation.

7. GYPAETOS BARBATUS.

This Vulture is exceedingly common in most of our hill-stations in the north-west Himalayas, and most numerous where there are convalescent depots of European troops stationed, being attracted by the greater abundance of offal and refuse in such places, which certainly form the chief part of the food of this Vulture. At Landour it is very common, and quite fearless of man, often passing overhead within a few yards and alighting on the ground not far from a road. Both in general structure and habits I consider *Gypaetos* most nearly allied to *Neophron*; and Mr. Hume, who agrees with me in this, tells me that he has known it (like the *Neophron*) to feed on human ordure. In the interior of the hills it is said at times, at all events, to carry off Pheasants, Chukor Partridges, and, occasionally, young lambs; and Mr. Brooks mentions that a rabbit-yard at Almora was visited by one of these birds, and rabbit after rabbit carried off. I much

doubt the stories related of its pushing large animals over cliffs. I found it in considerable numbers frequenting the cliffs on the south face of the Salt range of hills in the Punjab, not far from Jhelum.

8. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*.

I must really doubt the probability of this bird breeding in our limits, as considered not unlikely by Mr. Hume. Had it done so near Peshawur, the most likely locality in India, it certainly would not have escaped the observation of such a skilled falconer as Major (now Colonel) Delmé-Radcliffe. The few Peregrines I have had in my possession procured in the Punjab appeared to me to be smaller than the coast-race I was so familiar with in the south of India.

9. *FALCO PEREGRINATOR*.

This fine Falcon certainly appears to be rare in Northern India. Hodgson has only one drawing of it in his collection of drawings at the British Museum; and another species of Falcon appears to have been mistaken for it both by Mr. Hume and Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe. It is, as stated by Schlegel, nearly related to *Falco macropus*, Swainson (*melanogenys*, Gould), of Australia, which also extends into Malayana.

Mr. Hume in criticising my origin of the name of the male, *Koela* or *Kohila*, as being derived from (not as being a corruption of) the name of the female bird *Kohi*, must have forgotten the similar origin of the names of other male Falcons, to wit, *Charghela* from *Charagh*, *Dourela* from *Douri*.

9 bis. *FALCO ATRICEPS*, Hume.

I am glad to find that Mr. Gurney has allowed this to be a distinct species. I distinguished it at once, as Mr. Hume points out, from *F. peregrinator*, though I had then seen only one specimen. Mr. Hume has recently, I believe, procured many specimens, as has also Mr. Brooks; its eggs, too, have been obtained near Dhurmsala. It appears to be not rare in the Himalayas; and I have very little doubt that it was this Falcon which I saw near Kotegur in 1865, and of which Mr. Berkeley had a specimen, which, with others procured sub-

sequently at my request, he forwarded to me, but which unfortunately never reached me.

M. Jules Verreaux was certainly in error in referring it to *Falco melanogenys*, which, as previously observed, is much more near *F. peregrinator*. When I first saw Mr. Hume's then unique specimen, I was, from a vague conception (for I had not seen a specimen), inclined to consider it *F. barbarus*; and I see from Mr. Gurney's notes that a specimen of this species is in the Leyden Museum, labelled as *F. barbarus*. The bird was well known to Hodgson, and is figured by him in two states of plumage as *Falco micrurus*; but that name, I believe, has not been published. The confluence of the cheek-stripe does not appear to be constant, and is not strongly marked in Hodgson's drawings. I should be inclined to look on it, theoretically, as a small local race of *F. peregrinus*. If this Falcon is, as I understand from Mr. Hume, the *F. peregrinator* apud Delmé-Radcliffe, it is stated by him to be common in the hills near Murree, and to feed much on green Pigeons and also on the Chukor partridge. The same gentleman records the curious fact (which I have also noticed in other Falcons) of its propensity to fly at Bats. This Falcon is usually called *Shahin*, or *Kohi*, sometimes with a prefix, signifying black, the *Kala Shahin*. Hodgson's falconers named it *Jáwali Kúhi*.

10. FALCO SACER.

When I wrote the first volume of the 'Birds of India' I had not seen a specimen of this Falcon. Since that time I have seen very many, have had many trained ones in my possession, and killed them in their winter haunts. One of the most characteristic points of this Falcon is the long tail, marked with round or roundish pale spots, not bars; and this character equally occurs in the bird of the year and the old bird. Young birds vary much in the shade of their upper plumage, some being quite dark brown, others pale earthy brown, some having the head with a rufous tinge, most with a creamy or pale fulvescent hue—and also in the amount of the brown spots on the lower surface, some having them so thickly spread that the abdomen appears almost uniform brown, as in a young Jugger,

others with the spots few, smaller, and distant. The males are, I think, as a rule less numerously spotted than females, and have the head and neck paler.

The measurements given in the 'Birds of India' are copied from various authors, and are necessarily imperfect. A fine male that died whilst being trained was $19\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, the wing $13\frac{1}{2}$, tail 8, mid toe with claw $1\frac{7}{8}$. A female was 22 inches long, expanse 49, wing $15\frac{3}{4}$, tail 9, tarsus 2, mid toe with claw $2\frac{1}{2}$. Weight 2 lb. 2 oz.

The Cherrug Falcon visits the Punjab and neighbouring provinces on this side of the Sutlej in considerable numbers in the cold weather, and is still more numerous and common all along the northern and western frontier. Many are caught annually in the Punjab, near Lahore and Unritsir, and also about Ferozepore and the desert country east of the Sutlej. Near Sirsa I have seen five or six in one morning's ride; and one or two came regularly to roost on a tree close by the traveller's bungalow there. I never saw it in Kashmir, and I do not think that any are captured there. I had not an opportunity of observing what this Falcon chiefly preys on; but all the Punjab falconers assert that its especially favourite food is the large "*Sandha*" Lizard (*Uromastix hardwicki*).

The Cherrug is flown chiefly at the Houbara Bustard (*H. macqueenii*), also at Hares, Kites, and occasionally at the Koolun (*Grus cinerea*) and the Heron. I have had several trained for Cranes, and killed a few; but it is certainly not such a good and bold bird for that large quarry as the Peregrine. On one occasion I slipped a Cherrug at some Cranes; and immediately afterwards four or five Sarrus (*Grus antigone*) rose just behind them. The Falcon came up first with these, and immediately attacked one and brought him to the ground. On my riding up I found the Falcon clinging to her huge antagonist, who was in vain endeavouring to shake her off and strike her with his curved claw. I dismounted immediately and secured the prize. My falconers considered this a great feat. After the Houbara the flight is often prolonged for two or three miles, and occasionally the bustard escapes. After Hares two Falcons are often slipped, and manage to secure the hare between them; but when one only

is used, a dog is generally slipped as well, and, unless the ground is very unfavourable, it generally secures the Hare after it has been struck three or four times by the Falcon. It is not unfrequently happens that the Hare is fairly lifted off the ground by the impetus of the Falcon's swoop. The flight of the Cherrug after a Kite is very amusing, as the quarry makes extraordinary exertions, by rising to a height and dodging the stoop of the Falcon, to escape her inevitable capture.

Of the published figures of this Falcon many are very imperfect, and very few show the round spots on the tail-feathers. I cannot help suspecting that another species of Falcon is often confounded with the true *F. sacer*. I first heard of this bird from Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe, who wrote me that he had once seen a large Falcon like the Cherrug, but with the upper plumage somewhat banded and Kestrel-like. The late Dr. Scott obtained a specimen (which was shot at Umballa) of a female Falcon which closely tallies with this notice; and Lord Walden now possesses this specimen, which I saw and took a note of at Dr. Scott's. The whole upper plumage is banded with reddish isabelline on a brownish grey ground; the tail with pale rufous bars (not spots); the moustachial streak very narrow; lower plumage white, with drops of brown on the breast, larger on the flanks and thighs, and obsolete on the under tail-coverts. Length 24 inches, wing $16\frac{1}{2}$, tail 10, middle toe $2\frac{5}{8}$. Hodgson has one drawing of this bird, which might have been taken from the specimen noticed; and it appears to me that the *F. sacer* figured by Wolf, in the 'Zoological Sketches,' must have been the same bird, and not true *F. sacer*.

The claws of the specimen are exceedingly blunt. I imagine that it is an old bird. Should it be considered distinct, as at present I must conclude, I would propose that it should retain Hodgson's name of *milvipes*, which is quite appropriate. It will be noticed that it is somewhat larger than true *F. sacer*. Its Kestrel-like appearance is very remarkable.

12. *FALCO BABYLONICUS* *.

This Falcon I find to be the one generally called *Shahin* in

* *Ibis*, 1861, p. 218, t. vii.

the Punjab, usually without any prefix. According to Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe it is sometimes called *Safeid Shahin*, i.e. white Shahin, or *Lal-sir Shahin*, meaning red-headed Shahin. I have had several brought to me captured close to Umritsir, and have seen them taken not far from Delhi. Mr. Hume has also received it from Central India. It clearly belongs to the Peregrine group rather than to the Lanners, with which, following Selater, I classed it in my 'Birds of India;' and this was long ago pointed out to me by Colonel Delmé-Radcliffe before I had seen it myself. It is not very highly esteemed by the Punjab falconers; but Delmé-Radcliffe says that it is highly valued at Peshawur; He states that an old Falcon which has moulted seven times, in the possession of Lieut. Griffiths, kills Black Curlew (*Geronticus papillosus*), Mallard, Teal, and all the kinds of Partridges. They are usually trained for Partridges and Plovers.

A female, in her second year, that died in my possession had the head deep rufous, some of the feathers centred with slaty brown, and a line from the eye to the nape also rufous; the upper plumage generally ashy, each feather banded with dark slaty- and edged with pale rufous-grey; the rump a clear ashy-blue, with the dark markings somewhat arrow-shaped; tail slaty with a tinge of rufous, and tipped with the same; beneath rufescent, whitish on the chin and throat; a few small brown spots on the lower parts of the breast and abdomen; the flanks and under wing-coverts narrowly banded with dusky brown; thigh-coverts with small arrow-shaped marks; tail beneath dusky brown, with pale rufous bands on the inner webs only of the quills. Cere yellow; bill bluish, black at the tip; legs and feet yellow. Length 17 inches, expanse 42, wing 12, tail $6\frac{1}{2}$, mid toe with claw nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$. A young bird in its first plumage, but much abraded, has the whole upper parts dull brown, the white of the chin and throat extending partially on the sides of the neck; the lower parts very pale whitish rufescent, with numerous longitudinal oval streaks of brown; the tail a darker brown, with pale rufescent bands.

This Falcon is clearly the *Falco peregrinoides* of Gray's 'List of Hodgson's Nepal Birds;' and Hodgson has figured it under that name among his drawings in the British Museum. It so closely resembles the figure of that Falcon in Temminck's

'Planches Coloriées' that I concluded they must be the same bird; but I find that that bird is now generally looked on as the same as *F. barbarus*.

With age the back of the adult becomes very pale slaty, and the rufous of the head generally is somewhat paler than in younger birds; but Delmé-Radcliffe states that he has seen some birds with the head as red as that of the Turumti (*Falco chicquera*).

15. LITHOFALCO ÆSALON.

The Merlin visits the Punjab and upper portions of the North-west Provinces in winter. I have had several brought me captured near Umritsir; and when out on a hawking-tour, my falconers caught one not far from Delhi. It is called by the Punjab falconers "*Retal turumti*," or "*Regi*," but by Hindustanis "*Dourai*" and "*Dourela*," a name which in 'The Birds of India' I have applied (no doubt on erroneous information) to the Hobby.

The Merlin is usually trained for the Hoopoe, after which it affords fair sport, and the quarry very often escapes. Occasionally it is trained for Quail.

17. TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS.

Mr. Hume puts a query of doubt to my notice of the Kestrel breeding in May, June, and July. Why? By his own showing Captain Cock found in one nest only one egg, laid 27th May; on 5th June there were three. When would the young birds have left this nest?

18. ERYTHROPUS CENCHRIS.

Indian specimens of this bird differ somewhat from the European bird in the adult male plumage; for in Indian and Chinese examples the whole of the lesser, median, and greater wing-coverts are bluish grey, whilst in the European bird the lesser and median coverts are vinaceous red. Mr. Swinhoe was the first to notice this, and, I believe, called the bird *E. pekinensis*; but I see that in the excellent figures of this Falcon, both in Buchanan's and Hodgson's drawings of birds, this mode of coloration of the adult male is distinctly represented. Not having seen a specimen in that plumage, I described the European adult in my 'Birds of India;' and Mr. Hume has apparently done the same in his 'Scrap-book.'

19. *ERYTHROPUS VESPERTINUS*.

The form of this Falcon found in North-eastern Asia has the under wing-coverts white, with some dusky bars, whilst in the European race they are pure grey. It has been named *E. amurensis*, and is beautifully figured by Wolf in 'The Ibis' for 1866. Nepal specimens examined prove the Indian bird to belong to this race, which has also been found in Southern Africa.

20 *bis*. *HIERAX MELANOLEUCUS*, Blyth.

This rare Pigmy Falcon has been lately procured by Major Godwin-Austen in Cachar.

21. *ASTUR PALUMBARIUS*.

A few Goshawks find their way to the plains of the Punjab during winter, and now and then are captured. Most of the birds that are brought in such numbers for sale every year are taken in the hills, in large nets hung between trees. I saw a pair, evidently breeding, in a wood in the Asrang-valley, beyond Chini, on the Sutlej, at about 12,000 feet elevation.

The Goshawk is, perhaps, the greatest favourite with natives for hawking, as it is much the most expensive, untamed birds being rarely sold for less than 50 rupees (£5). In a good sporting-country one or two Goshawks will furnish daily a fair supply of game, Partridges, Hares, Duck, Plover, &c.

24. *ACCIPITER NISUS*.

I believe that a few pairs only breed on some of the higher ranges of the Himalayas. I have killed it in July in Gulmurg, in Kashmir, at 10,000 feet elevation. When Dr. Stoliczka says it is "more common on the lower hills than in the interior," I presume he means either very early in the year or in the autumn, *i. e.* during the periods of migration; for I greatly doubt its breeding in such localities.

24 *bis*. *ACCIPITER MELASCHISTUS*, Hume.

I quite agree in the separation of this species from *A. nisus*, as, indeed, I did as soon as I saw Mr. Hume's two specimens. It may be looked on as a dark local race of *A. nisus*. It is figured by Hodgson in his drawings; but no distinct name given.

25. *ACCIPITER VIRGATUS*.

I have not at present sufficient materials to work out my ideas

respecting this species ; but I have come to the conclusion that *A. gularis*, Schlegel, is the same as the northern or Himalayan form of *virgatus*, but that perhaps the southern or Malayan race is distinct. Certainly many of the specimens got in the Himalayas do not differ from Schlegel's figure in the 'Fauna Japonica.' Mr. Thompson, however, in Hume's 'Scrap-book,' indicates two races even in the Himalayas ; and one of Hodgson's drawings appears to represent one of them. I am doubtful whether Blyth's *A. nisoides* is the young of this or not.

26. AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS.

I have seen this magnificent Eagle occasionally in the upper portion of the Sutlej valley, always at great elevations, never less than 12,000 feet ; but in Ladak it is much more common from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, and I used to watch in vain for two or three nights in succession to get a shot at a pair that roosted in a magnificent deep ravine close to where my tent was pitched. It is always said by the hill-people to prey much on *Tetraogallus* and *Lerwa*.

27. AQUILA IMPERIALIS.

It has lately been attempted to show that the Indian race of this Eagle differs from the European one, the plumage of the young bird especially differing in a marked degree. Hodgson, too, insisted that his *vittata* (not *vittata*, as generally written) is distinct from *A. imperialis* (his *nipalensis*) ; and Mr. Hume is inclined to agree with him. Blasius also gives *bifasciata*, Gray (which is *vittata*), from central Asia, as distinct from *imperialis* of Europe. I have not sufficient materials to elucidate or even to add any important particulars on this point ; but I may state here that one of Buchanan-Hamilton's figures represents the plumage of the adult European bird with a distinct white shoulder-patch.

28. AQUILA NÆVIA.

Many African travellers and naturalists speak of this Eagle as frequently being seen to pursue Falcons, to rob them of their prey. It is, I think, much more probable that the Eagle observed was in all cases *A. navioides*, the Indian representative of which is notorious for this habit, which has not to my know-

ledge been noticed of *A. nævia* by any observer in India, where its chief food has been found to be frogs.

29. AQUILA FULVESCENS.

The distinctness of the Indian tawny Eagle from the African *A. nævioides* has for some time been recognized by the best observers. Among other late authorities, Mr. W. Blanford, when in Abyssinia, obtained true *A. nævioides*; and he insists on this being perfectly distinct from the Indian bird, the bill and legs being constantly larger. But quite recently Messrs. Brooks and Hume have procured specimens in fulvous plumage of a large Eagle quite distinct from the ordinary Indian one, which has been confidently pronounced to be true *A. nævioides*, and which must therefore be added to our fauna.

29 bis. AQUILA NÆVIoidES, Cuvier.

Several specimens have now been obtained in the North-west Provinces of India, near Etáwa and elsewhere; and it will doubtless be found hereafter to have a more general distribution, throughout Western India at all events. It appears not improbable that the figure of *Aquila fulvescens* in Hardwicke's 'Illustrations' is taken from this species, and not from the common Tawny Eagle, which must therefore be named either *fusca*, *punctata*, or *vindhiana*. If Gray's names have the priority over that of Franklin, I should suggest the adoption of *punctata* as being in a state of plumage much more resembling that most commonly met with than *fusca*.

30. AQUILA HASTATA.

No specimens of this Eagle have been obtained lately; and Mr. Hume is inclined to doubt its distinctness from *A. nævia*. It is certainly somewhat remarkable that so many practical naturalists should have considered this Eagle a distinct species, all of whom were more or less well acquainted with *A. nævia*.:—first Lesson, the namer of the species; then myself, when I described it as *Spizaetus punctatus*; then Mr. Blyth and Mr. Frith, in Bengal, and Mr. Hodgson, in Nepaul, who figures it under the name of *Aquila tarsata*, from one of its characteristic points, the lengthened slender tarsus. Quite recently Major Godwin-

Austen obtained a specimen which he at once identified from my description ; and he describes the tarsus of this as five inches long. Most unfortunately, however, his specimen was destroyed after he had taken the fresh measurements. There is no doubt, however, of its being nearly allied to *A. navia*, but differing in being somewhat smaller and more slender, having a smaller bill, and in the tarsus being longer and more slender.

31. *AQUILA PENNATA*.

If our Indian bird is the same as the European one, which has hitherto been generally allowed, I find that the mass of evidence is against my belief in the white-bellied bird being the young one. At one time I had the opportunity of getting many specimens, and my impression is that in more than one case I had found young dark feathers springing from among old white ones ; but as at least two instances are recorded of brown-plumaged young birds having been taken from the nest, I must give up my old views. Quite recently, however, I have been told of one young bird in dark plumage, and another one white below, having been taken from a nest in Europe ; and Mr. Hume, in his 'Scrap-book,' is also inclined from information he has received to agree with me.

Mr. Blyth, however, has just told me that he considers the Indian race to be more nearly allied to the Australian *Aquila morphnoides* than to the European bird. So the whole subject appears to require fresh researches.

33. *NISAETUS BONELLI*.

I found an eyry of this fine Eagle at Toglegabad, near Delhi, on a bush or small tree growing out of the old fort-wall. Mr. Hume has also discovered the same nest.

34. *LIMNAETUS CALIGATUS*.

I do not see in what respect Tytler's *Spizaetus andamanensis* differs from the young of this common Bengal Eagle. It corresponds in size and in coloration with that described in my text.

36. *LIMNAETUS NIPALENSIS*.

Falco orientalis, Temm. & Schl., given by me, but with a query, as the same as the Himalayan bird, is very distinct, being smaller and wanting the fine crest. Our bird extends throughout the

whole extent of the Himalayas to Kashmir. In the cold weather it visits the plains at the foot of the hills. I have killed it in the Dehra Doon.

[To be continued.]

XX.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Announcements, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editor of 'The Ibis'":—

Marldon, Totnes, 8th February, 1871.

SIR,—Captain Shelley, in his very interesting paper on the Ornithology of Egypt, expresses a doubt (*anteà*, p. 39) as to whether the *Gypaetus* which occurs in that country is *G. barbatus* (Linn.), or *G. meridionalis*, Bon. (= *nudipes*, Brehm); and it may therefore be desirable to mention that Dr. Rüppell refers the Egyptian bird to the latter species in his 'Systematische Uebersicht,' p. 3.

With reference to another point upon which Captain Shelley expresses himself as doubtful, viz. the occurrence in Egypt of *Haliaetus albicilla*, I may mention that an immature specimen in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris is marked as having been obtained in the "Desert of Suez," and that an interesting description of the nidification of this species in the neighbourhood of Lake Menzaleh is given by Dr. v. Heuglin in his recent work entitled 'Ornithologie Nordost-Afrikas,' p. 51.

I am desirous also of supplementing Mr. Howard Saunders's remarks on *Aquila nævioides* (*anteà*, p. 61) by the following brief observations:—

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Saunders for a recent opportunity of examining his fine series of Eagles, and I now quite agree with him in believing the "café-au-lait-coloured" Spanish Eagles to which he refers to be immature specimens of *Aquila imperialis*, although when I first saw them I supposed them to be examples of *Aquila nævioides* in the first year's plumage, from which they can hardly be distinguished except by their somewhat larger size.

Mr. Howard Saunders, however, showed me a Spanish Eagle from Lord Lilford's collection, which in my opinion is an undoubted specimen of *Aquila nævioides*. Another Spanish specimen